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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/040,386	01/09/2002	Yoshito Sakai	111636	2053

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, PHUONGCHI T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/040,386

Applicant(s)

SAKAI ET AL.

Examiner

Phuongchi T Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, "the width of a leading end portion of the supporting member is the same or smaller than that of the leading end portion of the flat wire member" in claim 5 and 10, must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Benze (US4898543).

In regard to claim 1, Benze discloses (figures 6, 13 and 14) a connector assembly for a flat wire member, comprising a first connector (24) for accommodating terminals (82), the first connector (24) being provided with a positioning portion; and a second connector (22) for holding a flat wire member (26), the second connector (22) including a plate-shaped supporting member (112) supporting a leading end portion (ends of 26) of the flat wire member (26) in such a way as to be movable in a widthwise direction (the direction along with flat wire member) which is normal to an inserting direction of the wire member (26) into the first connector (24),

whereby the flat wire member (26) being positioned with respect to the first connector (24) in the widthwise direction (the direction along with flat wire member) by directly coming into contact with the positioning portion of the first connector (24).

In regard to claim 2, Benze discloses the connector assembly wherein the flat wire member (26) is formed with a pair of bulging portions (adjacent 62) at opposite widthwise ends of the leading end of the flat wire member (26) with respect to the inserting direction (figure 11), the bulging portion (adjacent 62) projects more forward in the inserting direction than conductors of the flat wire member (26) to come into contact with the positioning portion earlier than the conductors (of 26) when being inserted.

In regard to claims 4, 6 and 12, Benze discloses the connector assembly further comprising means for placing the flat wire member (26) in a state that the flat wire member (26) inclines down (or up depended on the side of the viewer) in the inserting direction on the supporting member (112) (figure 9).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benze (US4898543).

In regard to claims 5 and 10, Benze lacks the width of a leading end portion of the supporting member is the same or smaller than that of the leading end portion of the flat wire member. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill at the time the invention was

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made to design the width of the supporting member and the width of the flat cable of Benze in a way such as the width of a leading end portion of the supporting member to be the same or smaller than that of the leading end portion of the flat wire member. Since applicant did not explain the purpose of the width of a leading end portion of the supporting member to be the same or smaller than that of the leading end portion of the flat wire member in the claim.

7. Claims 3, 7-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benze (US4898543) in view of Igarashi et al (US5906504- hereinafter after referred to as Igarashi).

In regard to claims 3, 7 and 11, Benze lacks a restricting member on the flat wire and restricting recess on the support. However, Igarashi teaches (figures 5 and 10) the connector assembly wherein an underside of the flat wire member (14) is mounted with a restricting member (18) and the supporting member (15) is formed with a restricting recess (15g) engageable with the restricting member (18), and the restricting recess (15g) hinders a movement of the restricting member (18) in the inserting direction. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to modify the flat wire member of Benze by provide a restricting member on the flat wire and restricting recess on the support as taught by Igarashi for preventing the flat wire loosening from the support member and wider the restricting recess 15g in the widthwise direction that is normal to an inserting direction to permit a movement of the restricting member along a widthwise direction.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected for the same reason of claims 4 and 5, respectively.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Doushita (US6270371B1), Tanaka (US5920465), Chishma et al (US5816845), Pope (US4996478), Duquerroy et al (US6224407B1), Maciejewski et al (US6280228B1) and

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Dranchak et al (US4907975) are cite to show the a plate-shaped supporting member supporting a leading end portion of the flat wire member in such a way as to be movable in a widthwise direction which is normal to an inserting direction of the flat wire member into the first connector.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuongchi T Nguyen whose telephone number is (703)305-0729. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (703) 308 - 2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7723 for regular communications and (703) 305-7723 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-3329.

March 7, 2003


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